(c) Provisions for Safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed there under. The safety Laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. During 1990, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, were comprehensively amended. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The Officers of the Directorate-General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to over see the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

The status of implementation of safety legislation in accident prone mines is being assessed and reviewed from time to time.

Non-Cooperation of West Bengal Government with PF Authorities

7412. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Minister of Labour has recently stated that the Government of West Bengal was not co-operating with the Provident Fund authorities for the recovery of the Provident Fund dues from the employees; and

(b) if so, what the are details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table for the House.

Strike threat by I.N.T.U.C.

7413. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the I.N.T.U.C. has recently threatened to observe a nation-wide strike on 14th July, 1994, in both public and private sectors if the Central Government fails to take effective steps on its long-standing demands;

(b) if so, the details of the long standing demands of the I.N.T.U.C. and;

(c) what effective steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) : The All India Working Committee of INTUC in its meeting held on May 14-15, 1994 resolved to resort to a day's token strike on July, 14, 1994 in case the Government failed to take effective steps to settle some of the important outstanding issues as listed below :

1. Pension Scheme.
2. Raising of Bonus ceiling.
3. Finalising the DA slab for public sector employees.
4. Bringing all employees under PF coverage.
5. Increased PF contribution for workers in the textile industry.
6. Appointment of 2nd National Commission on Labour.
7. Labour Cell in the Planing Commission,
8. Revival of sick units.

As regards issues at Serial No. 1—6 the issues are under consideration of the Government at various stages.

As regard the setting up of a Labour Cell in the Planning Commission (Serial No. 7) a Standing

Advi ory Committee has been set up in the Planning Commission on 1-5-94 under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Minister of State for Labour as Vice-Chairman consisting of representatives of trade unions, experts in labour matters, representatives of organisations working in the unorganised sectors and member, Planning Commission as members of the Committee.

As regards the revival of sick units (Serial No. 8) a Special Tripartite Committee to consider the impact of New Industrial Policy on Labour and other related matters and to make appropriate recommendations was set up in November, 1991 and six other sectoral Tripartite Industrial Committee in respect of Cotton Textile, Jute, Engineering, Chemicals, Road Transport and Power Generation & Distribution were revived as decided by the Special Tripartite Committee All these Committees have discussed revival of sick units in various sectors of the economy in their various meetings. The process of discussion in still on.

Formulation of National Wage Policy

7414. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National wage policy for the benefit and welfare of the poor labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) The issue relating to formulation of National Wage Policy has been considered by various fora in the past. A Group of State Labour Ministers in September, 1985 decided that it might not be feasible to frame a National Wage Policy at the present stage. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November, 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a national wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be linked with rise in cost of living. Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and U.T. Administrations, The State Governments/U.T. Administrations were requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages to be revised every six months. As a sequel to the recommendation of the ILC 1985, the Government framed guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages and the country was accordingly divided into six regions. The Conference of the Regional Labour Ministers of five regions, namely, Eastern, Region North-Eastern, Southern Region, Northern Region and Western Region have taken already place to consider the Regional issue relating to wages.

Unemployment/under-Employment Situation in the Country

7415. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment and under-employment situation in the country has become very acute during the last three years;

(b) whether ILO has expressed concern over the resing graph of unemployment/under-employment;

(c) how many urban workers have been laid off during the aforesaid period of three years (1991, 1992 and 1993) ; and